



CHARTER SCHOOL PLANNING GRANTS

WHO WE ARE

Great Public Schools Now (GPSN) is an independent nonprofit organization whose mission is to accelerate the growth and expansion of high quality public schools and significantly reduce the number of students attending chronically low performing schools in greater Los Angeles. GPSN will support the replication of successful public schools in communities of need, regardless of school governance type (charter, magnet, traditional, etc.). The organization is deeply rooted in the pursuit of educational equity – the belief that every child, irrespective of the zip code they live in, deserves a high-quality education that prepares them for college, career, and life.

PLANNING GRANTS

GPSN is seeking proposals to start new charter schools that address an educational need in Los Angeles, ideally are led by leaders of color, and either replicate proven models or propose innovative instructional designs (e.g., dual-language, Montessori, inclusive special education, blended learning).

To support applicants to submit robust charter petitions, GPSN will award select applicants with Planning Grants of \$50,000 to assist in pre-authorization planning activities. Planning grants are intended for pre-authorization support only, and supplement post-authorization startup funds such as the Walton Family Foundation's [High Quality Charter program](#). School teams that have received other pre-authorization support from GPSN, such as through incubator programs, are ineligible for additional planning grant monies.

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA & PRIORITIZATION

- **Early stage:** First time and small operators (no more than 3 schools in operation) are invited to apply.
- **Track record of success:**
 - **For new operators:** Instructional leader should have a track record of success improving student achievement.
 - **For operators with existing schools:** Majority of existing schools should be high performing as evidenced by:
 - At least 25% of the students in the existing school are performing at proficient levels in both ELA and Math according to the latest CAASPP school wide results,
 - AND EITHER
 - At least 50% of students are proficient in ELA OR Math; OR
 - The existing school scored significantly better than charter and district operated public schools that the students would otherwise attend in both Math and ELA (e.g., Similar Schools Rank of 8 or higher).
- **Opening within two years:** Intending to open in 2019-20 or intending to submit a petition within a year.

- **Serving a high-need student population:** Opening in LAUSD or a neighboring high poverty district (Inglewood, Compton, Lynwood or Lennox). Racially/socioeconomically diverse models will be considered, though preference will be given to models serving a high-need student population (70%+ free or reduced-price lunch eligible).
- **Diversity:** Diverse teams or teams led by leaders of color will receive priority.
- **Significantly increasing seats:** Projects that will serve a greater number of students will receive higher priority.

DIRECTIONS FOR APPLYING

Planning grant applications are accepted by invitation only and will be considered on a rolling basis. Interested applicants should reach out to Lauren Tate, Director of School Growth (ltate@greatpublicschoolsnow.org), for more information.

In addition to a written application, the planning grant process will involve an interview and, if applicant has existing schools, a site visit.